

Public Submission

Abel Coal Project Mine Plan and Coal Production Modification - (05 136 MOD 3)

I am writing to express an objection to the development based upon noise impact. I am a resident nearby to the Bloomfield Colliery having regularly observed noise from Bloomfield Colliery, Bloomfield CHPP and rail loop. I have two young children who have bedrooms facing south east who occasionally have disturbed sleep that I consider is contributed to by noise emanating from the site. I consider that the vast majority of noise comes from the Bloomfield CHPP. I am seeking improved noise management of facilities and/or increased confidence in compliance with noise conditions.

I am concerned regarding the development where a significant increase in coal will be processed through the CHPP, which I would imagine will increase the time period of higher noise due to more processing required and more train movements and loading.

I note previous noise consent conditions, though I am concerned by some non compliance with these. The Bloomfield Colliery Annual Environmental Management Report 2011-2012 reports two quarterly noise non compliances at the nearest measurement location at Kilshanny Ave (Site L). The non compliances were during June 2011 quarter and September 2011 quarter. Kilshanny Ave is about another 250M further away from site than my home, potentially meaning that noise at my home and for others in my street is further exceeded. I am unaware of any remedial actions or consequences which doesn't give me a lot of confidence regarding future noise compliance. With increased use of Bloomfield CHPP, there is increased probability of more noise non compliances if nothing else is done.

My own personal observations at my home using a noise meter are shown below. I acknowledge that these are not professional measurements, though I am confident that they are not completely inaccurate and reasonably represent what noise is received at my home. These spot measurements recorded a fairly constant noise, and seem to exceed the noise consent conditions significantly. I am concerned that this type of circumstance will happen more often and be of longer duration with increased use of the CHPP.

| Date / Time | dBA |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 18 March 2013 9.10PM | 54 |
| 18 March 2013 9.50PM | 49 |
| 18 March 2013 10.30PM | 47 |

*Using instrument Digitech QM1588 (uncalibrated). Back step. Temperature 17DegC. Still conditions.

I recommend some possible controls or mitigating measures below that might be acceptable as additional consent measures.

- Review noise limits of consent and conditions for exceedances – if there are currently noise exceedances with what seems to be few consequences or remedial action, either increase penalty for non compliance and/or reduce the allowable noise limits. Compliance with recommended acceptable and maximum limits of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy should be reviewed against the consent conditions for suburban and rural amenity. Of particular concern to me is evening and night noise.

- Establish improved noise monitoring – current noise monitoring by Bloomfield Colliery appears to be by attended methods. I understand this would only establish brief snapshots of what is actually occurring. I don't believe this can accurately represent the true circumstance of what is happening at nearby receivers. Possibility of additional attended monitoring, non attended monitoring, permanent monitoring and monitoring sites closer to Bloomfield Colliery should be considered.
- Publishing of compliance, exceedances, remedial action and penalty - I only became aware of this proposal through advertisement of modification proposal in local paper, and subsequent personal research. It appears from Bloomfield Colliery AEMR Reports that noise complaints from the Ashtonfield area is a consistent issue, though I don't recall receiving much communications specifically from Bloomfield Colliery addressing what seem to be regular concerns of nearby residents. Consideration should be given to greater community contact and engagement through targeted regular newsletter with topics such as the above with accurate and honest reporting and actions being taken if exceedances occur.

I am happy to discuss further if required.